

EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING DIVISION

During 2000, 80 new General Blaster's Licenses were issued, and 1,727 General Licenses were renewed. Also, 68 new Limited Licenses were issued and 645 Limited Licenses were renewed. There were 117 General Examinations and 100 Limited Examinations given. To obtain a General or Limited Blaster's License, the applicant must pass the prescribed written examination and must have two years of practical blasting experience. Ten courses were offered at various locations around the state and were attended by 142 people. In 2000, 34 Blaster Certification Examinations were administered under the Memorandum of Agreement with the Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as mandated by the Federal Office of Surface Mining.

Personnel of the Division of Explosives and Blasting

Lawrence C. Schneider, Director.....	Lexington
Douglas Hicks, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Martin
Kenneth Payne, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Barbourville
Carlos Delgado, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Lexington
Evan Shelby, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Marion
Coleman England , Assistant Director.....	Hyden
Kevin Meade, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Pikeville
Terry Dozer , Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Central City
Andrew Smith, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Louisville
Sandra Thor , Administrative Specialist, III.....	Lexington
Jeffrey Reed , Program Coordinator.....	Lexington

The Division of Explosives and Blasting continued its program of inspection, enforcement, education, and licensing of blasters in 2000. A total of 148 new blaster's licenses were issued during the calendar year 2000. Of these 148 new licenses, 80 were general blaster's licenses, and 68 were limited blaster's licenses. As of December 31, 2000, there were 2,520 individuals holding current and valid Kentucky blaster's licenses. Of these, 1,807 were general licenses, and 713 were limited licenses.

During 2000, well over 800 million pounds of explosives were detonated in Kentucky. This quantity represents 20% of the total explosives used in the entire United States.

The division conducted five General Blaster's Training Courses and five Limited Training Courses throughout the Commonwealth in 2000. These classes were attended by 142 people who were primarily applicants for blaster's licenses. The locations and number of attendees in the thirty hours of instruction are listed as follows:

<u>Classes</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
Barbourville	8
Barbourville	9
Central City	7
Louisville	25
Nicholasville	13

These courses consist of thirty hours of instruction covering all aspects of explosives use. The purpose of the course is to raise the competency level of the blaster's in the field as well as assist those preparing to take the blaster's examination. The public is better protected and the blaster's work environment is safer when the blaster's ability is enhanced through training.

The division conducted five Limited Blaster's Training Courses which is a course on blasting safety and techniques for small scale blasting operations. The locations and number of attendees in this class are listed as follows:

Barbourville	12
Bowling Green	29
Falls of Rough	6
Midway	15
Stanford	18

The Explosives and Blasting Inspectors answer 100% of all public complaints received by this Division. These complaints primarily concern ground vibrations, noise, flyrock, and various other adverse effects of blasting. The inspector's investigation of the complaints involves inspection of the operation generating the complaint and extensive seismic monitoring. During 2000, the Division made 170 such investigations of public complaints and used the seismograph 72 times in order to resolve these complaints.

In addition, the inspectors continue to make routine checks of all blasting operations to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing the use of explosives. The Division inspects not only those companies using explosives, but also companies which manufacture, sell, store, and transport explosives. Forty companies, engaged in the sale or distribution of explosives in the Commonwealth, registered with the Division in 2000.

The Department of Mines and Minerals, Division of Explosives and Blasting continues reviewing and issuing permits to purchase or receive explosives to coal mines, quarries, construction companies and individuals. As of December 31, 2000, 742 permits to purchase explosives were issued.

During the year the Division has participated in a number of seminars sponsored by other state and federal agencies and educational institutions. It has been the aim to use every opportunity for education of the public and training of blasters in the safe use and associated hazards of explosives.

The number of licensed blasters showed a slight decrease this year, continuing a trend that began in 1982 when there were over 4,700 licensed blasters. This drop in the number is due to the increased use of contracted shot service crews provided by the explosive companies, the retirement of licensees who were originally grandfathered into the system, and the more stringent training, testing, and experience requirements mandated by OSM for surface coal blasters.

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

Rick Bender, Director
Brian C. Gilpin, Assistant Director
Nancy Toombs, Administrative Secretary Sr.
Kimberly Collings, Well Records/Permit Reviewer
Matt Steen, Well Records/Permit Reviewer¹
Rob Flynn, Well Records/Permit Reviewer²
Gina Cavender, Office Supervisor³
Stephanie Thomason, Secretary II⁴
Nicole Gross, Secretary II⁵
Nancy L. Hager, Secretary III⁶

FIELD PERSONNEL

Cy Britt, Area SupervisorMadisonville
Jerry Gray, Area SupervisorHorse Cave
Marvin Combs, Area Supervisor Hazard
Curtis Hardison, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... Greenville
Jack C. Rice, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.⁷Mc
Ralph Sharp, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.⁸
..... Kettle
Johnny Tooley, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.Tom
Robert Yates, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.Co
James W. Hazel, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.O
Michael Burnett, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... Beattyville
Edward Combs, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... Dixon
Jack Deskins, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... Pikeville
Jerry Finley, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... London
Kerry Morgan, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr.
..... Essie
Doug Hamilton, Oil and Gas InspectorWitten
Greg Welsh, Oil and Gas Inspector
..... Beaver Dam
Rick Parrish, Oil and Gas Inspector⁹
..... Albany

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1. Resigned 9-30-2000
 2. Appointed 11-16-2000
 3. Promoted 9-16-2000
 4. Transferred In 11-16-2000

5. Transferred Out 8-31-2000
6. Transferred Out 12-31-2000
7. Retired 7-31-2000
8. Retired 9-30-2000
9. Hired 9-1-2000

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

At the close of 2000, the Oil and Gas Division had 12 field inspectors (one vacancy), 3 field supervisors and 7 employees (one vacancy) on its administrative staff.

The Division migrated from a legacy VAX system to a customized Microsoft Sequel Server database in March of 2000 with assistance from the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC). The migration included over 80,000 well records, 20,000 inspection records, 11,000 bond records and 10,000 company records. The customization related to permitting, transfers, field inspections, violations, tank battery inspections, idle well, gas storage fields, and bond characterization and forfeitures. In addition, a customized Microsoft Access front-end and backend was created for field inspectors, along with a front-end for the Kentucky Geological Survey Data system.

The Division is currently working with the GWPC and several other states on implementation of a field inspection module which utilizes a pocket PC with GIS software. Implementation is planned for 2001.

PERMITTING AND WELL TRANSFERS

During the year, the Division issued 1062 new permits primarily for new wells, but also includes permits for the deepening or reopening of existing wells. The top five counties receiving the most permits are in descending order as follows: Pike, Clinton, Knox, Floyd and Letcher. These counties accounted for 50% of the permits issued. Oil and gas operators transferred wells from one operator to another for a total of 806 wells. There were 226 new bonds posted totaling \$531,500.00. A total of \$208,000.00 was released as a result of proper abandonment or transfer to a successor operator.

Available to the public is a weekly publication of permits issued identifying the permit number, operator name, farm

name, county, Carter Coordinates, and target formation. This publication may be obtained on the Internet at the Division Web page: <http://www.caer.uky.edu/kdmm/ong.htm>.

COMPLIANCE AND FORFEITURES

The Division issued 893 violations in 2000, which resulted in 124 being corrected and cleared, 109 being forfeited, and the remaining in a pending status of either having been granted an extension, or in the process of forfeiture. The amount of forfeited bonds was \$124,500.00. The Division plugged 235 abandoned wells with funds from the abandoned well plugging fund for a total of \$463,552. This resulted in an average plugging cost for the year of \$1,973.00 per well.

2000 CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

-GENERAL-

A statistical summary of the oil and gas activities in Kentucky is as follows:

New Permits Issued	1062
Oil Wells Completed	73
Gas Wells Completed	446
Combination Oil and Gas	8
Misc. Service Wells Completed	5
Oil Wells Reported Plugged	288
Gas Wells Reported Plugged	63
Combination Oil and Gas Wells Plugged	4
Misc. Service Wells Plugged	16
Dry Holes Plugged	211
Total Wells Plugged	583
Wells Reported Plugged With No Known Completion	0

STATUS OF KENTUCKY OIL AND GAS WELLS

(12-31-00)

	Oil	Gas	Comb.	Servi ce	Total s
Total Producing Wells on 1/1/00	29,77 5	13,38 0	559	2,420	46,13 4
New Wells Added in 2000	73	446	8	5	532
Existing Wells Added in 2000	(269)	1107	10	(22)	826
Less Wells Plugged in 2000	288	63	4	16	371
New Totals 12/31/00	29,29 1	14,87 0	573	2,387	47,12 1

Discrepancies are from previous year reports due to reclassification by inspections and addition of existing wells to database.

<p align="center">SUMMARY BY COUNTY OF PERMITS ISSUED TO DRILL JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2000</p>

County	Totals	County	Totals
Adair	21	Gallatin	0
Allen	2	Garrard	0
Anderson	0	Grant	0
Ballard	0	Graves	0
Barren	6	Grayson	0
Bath	0	Green	2
Bell	34	Greenup	0
Boone	0	Hancock	4
Bourbon	0	Hardin	2
Boyd	1	Harlan	36
Boyle	0	Harrison	0
Bracken	0	Hart	8
Breathitt	0	Henderson	8
Breckinridge	2	Henry	0
Bullitt	0	Hickman	0
Butler	2	Hopkins	1

Caldwell	2	Jackson	0
Calloway	0	Jefferson	1
Campbell	0	Jessamine	0
Carlisle	0	Johnson	44
Carroll	0	Kenton	0
Carter	0	Knott	46
Casey	1	Knox	75
Christian	5	Larue	5
Clark	0	Laurel	0
Clay	43	Lawrence	22
Clinton	80	Lee	7
Crittenden	0	Leslie	22
Cumberland	18	Letcher	54
Daviess	29	Lewis	0
Edmonson	3	Lincoln	4
Elliott	5	Livingston	0
Estill	1	Logan	2
Fayette	0	Lyon	0
Fleming	0	McCracken	0
Floyd	57	McCreary	8
Franklin	0	McLean	6
Fulton	0	Madison	0
County	Totals	County	Totals
Magoffin	9	Powell	0
Marion	0	Pulaski	2
Marshall	0	Robertson	0
Martin	17	Rockcastle	0
Mason	0	Rowan	0
Meade	24	Russell	7
Menifee	0	Scott	0
Mercer	0	Shelby	0
Metcalfe	27	Simpson	1
Monroe	14	Spencer	0
Montgomery	0	Taylor	1
Morgan	3	Todd	0
Muhlenberg	15	Trigg	0
Nelson	0	Trimble	0
Nicholas	0	Union	8
Ohio	18	Warren	5
Oldham	0	Washington	0
Owen	0	Wayne	7
Owsley	7	Webster	1
Pendleton	0	Whitley	23
Perry	15	Wolfe	2
Pike	186	Woodford	0